

What is claimed is:

1. An automated data storage library, comprising:
 - a frame having a plurality of data storage drives mounted thereto;
 - a robotic picker for accessing different ones of the data storage drives via data tape cartridges;
 - a single control station associated with and mounted to the frame for controlling all of the data storage drives in the frame from a single position; the single control station further comprising:
 - a single display device for touch-screen, operational control of all functions of all of the data storage drives for centralizing management of all of the data storage drives; and
 - a switching unit connected to the single display device for manipulating selection of the data storage drives via microcode.
2. The automated data storage library of claim 1, wherein the functions of the data storage drives controlled by the single control station comprise: loading and unloading data tape cartridges, resetting the data storage drives, setting error code match dumps, looking at data storage drive history for loads and power-on time, setting library control features, microcode enhancements, retrieval of microcode dumps, accessing all vital product data, and monitoring potential problems with the data storage drives.

3. The automated data storage library of claim 1, wherein the data storage drives determine potential operational problems prior to actual failure, and these determinations are posted to the single display device as error messages.
4. The automated data storage library of claim 1, wherein the data storage drives are installed in the frame in a two-for-one drive solution, with individual drive connection cables extending between each data storage drive and the switching unit.
5. The automated data storage library of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of frames, each of the frames having a plurality of the data storage devices, and a single display device associated with and mounted to each of the frames.
6. The automated data storage library of claim 1, wherein the single display device comprises a liquid crystal display unit.

7. A method of operating an automated data storage library, comprising:

providing a frame having a plurality of data storage drives and a single control station;

controlling all of the data storage drives in the frame with the single control station;

performing touch-screen, operational control of all functions of all of the data storage drives with a single display device to centralize management of all of the data storage drives; and

manipulating selection of the data storage drives via microcode and a switching unit that is connected to the single display device.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the performing step comprises loading and unloading data tape cartridges, resetting the data storage drives, setting error code match dumps, looking at data storage drive history for loads and power-on time, setting library control features, making microcode enhancements, retrieving microcode dumps, accessing all vital product data, and monitoring potential problems with the data storage drives.
9. The method of claim 7, further comprising determining potential operational problems of the data storage drives prior to actual failure, and posting these determinations to the single display device as error messages.

10. The method of claim 7, further comprising installing the data storage drives in the frame in a two-for-one drive solution, with individual drive connection cables extending between each data storage drive and the switching unit.
11. The method of claim 7, further comprising providing a plurality of frames with each of the frames having a plurality of data storage devices, and a single display device associated with each of the frames.